

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 26, 2023
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

September 26, 2023

1. Opening Items

1.01 CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 2:02 p.m. in the Board Room of the Central Administration Building, located at 425 East Ninth Street in Reno, Nevada.

1.02 ROLL CALL

President Beth Smith and Board Members Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Colleen Westlake, and Alex Woodley were present. Superintendent Susan Enfield and staff were also present.

1.03 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Nia Williams led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.04 LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President Smith read the land acknowledgement.

2. Consent Agenda Items

President Smith opened the meeting to public comment.

John Eppolito spoke to Consent Agenda Items 2.05, 2.08, and 2.11. As related to items 2.05 and 2.08, he felt the district was trying to make up for student learning loss through the use of computers, which he believed to be a mistake. He opined that it was more important to have qualified teachers in front of the students and not put students in front of screens. For item 2.11, he believed mental health programs were needed for many students; however, he was concerned about who had access to the mental health records of students and if the information was put into the students' Infinite Campus records.

It was moved by Trustee Rodriguez and seconded by Trustee Woodley that **the Board of Trustees approves Consent Agenda Items 2.02 through 2.11.** The result of the

vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, Colleen Westlake, and Alex Woodley.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

- 2.02 The Board of Trustees approved the minutes of the June 27, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.
- 2.03 The Board of Trustees declared the items identified in Attachment A as surplus property so they may be disposed of in accordance with the statutes of the State of Nevada.
- 2.04 The Board of Trustees approved the purchase of 84 replacement school bus camera systems estimated at \$249,991.25 from current equipment provider GateKeeper through TIPS-USA national joinder contract.
- 2.05 The Board of Trustees approved the agreement with CWD-G to purchase 1,321 student laptops using competitive State of Nevada American Rescue Plan (ARP): Addressing the Impact of Learning Loss and Closing Funding Gaps grant funding for \$499,892.82.
- 2.06 The Board of Trustees approved high school basketball official fees with the Northern Nevada Basketball Officials Association (NNBOA) for the 2023-24 School Year in the amount of \$100,000.
- 2.07 The Board of Trustees approved the purchase of Promethean brand classroom ActivPanels and associated hardware for various schools estimated at \$634,729 from Advanced Classroom Technologies through a joinder contract, Organization for Educational Technology and Curriculum (OETC) volume price agreement.
- 2.08 The Board of Trustees approved the Microsoft Licensing Renewal payment for year 2 of 3 in the amount of \$722,268 for the term of October 31, 2023 to October 30, 2024.
- 2.09 The Board of Trustees approved Amendment #4 for Professional Architectural Design Services with Collaborative Design Studios for the Incline High School Expansion and Athletic Field Improvements for \$63,470.
- 2.10 The Board of Trustees accepted the Budget Transfer Reports and provided authorization to include budget transfers between functions or programs for the General Fund, in the amount of \$23,497, for the period August 1, 2023, through August 31, 2023, in the official Board minutes, as required by Nevada Revised Statute 354.598005.

- 2.11 The Board of Trustees approved Amendment #2 to the Agreement with Addiction Treatment Technologies, LLC, DBA Care Solace to access mental health treatment providers using Assembly Bill (AB) 495 Funds, from the 2021 Nevada Legislative Session, for \$228,750.

3. Items for Presentation, Discussion, Information and/or Action

3.01 PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF EXCELLENCE TARGETS FOR EACH OF THE FIVE GOALS OF THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 2023-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN, WHICH ARE: STRONG START FOR EVERY CHILD, STUDENT VOICE AND ADVOCACY, SAFETY AND BELONGING, ACADEMIC GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENT, AND EMPOWERING ALL LEARNERS FOR THEIR FUTURE

Dr. Susan Enfield, Superintendent, highlighted the new strategic plan was a departure from what strategic plans had previously looked like in the district. She noted the plan was very aggressive, focused, and bold, but that was what the students in Washoe County needed and deserved. She mentioned she had received positive reactions from members of the community in response to the plan. The presentation would focus on the excellence targets for each of the goals.

Mutiu Fagbayi, President/CEO, Performance Fact, walked the Trustees through the strategic plan flyer provided to the Board and community. The excellence targets were what the students would achieve, and the measures were the ways the district would track the progress of the goals. The individual targets were presented and included information on how the district was currently performing and the aggressive steps the district would need to take to reach the excellence targets. Comparisons between the Washoe County School District and other school districts on some of the data points from the excellence targets was reviewed to show that while the district had work to do to reach the targets, the district was also starting off in a better position than similar school districts, such as the data points related to the number of students who were proficient in English language arts (ELA).

Superintendent Enfield stressed that the targets were aspirational goals the district should aim for because that was what the students needed. If the district did not reach the targets, then they should celebrate the successes and continue to try to reach the goals.

Trustee Nicolet wondered how the other school districts were selected for comparison with the Washoe County School District. Mr. Fagbayi explained the school districts were selected because they were similar in terms of size and demographics. Higher performing school districts were also selected to show how they differed from the Washoe County School District.

President Smith indicated that in the future, she would be interested in seeing the per pupil funding of other school districts as a comparison as well. She wondered how the district would keep the staff engaged in reaching such aspirational goals and not becoming discouraged. Superintendent Enfield stated continuous progress monitoring and the celebration of successes were critical, so the team understood the work they were doing was important. Mr. Fagbayi added the Board and administration had to create an empowering infrastructure for the teachers, so they had the ability to provide the effective instruction the students needed.

Trustee Rodriguez asked how staff were involved in developing the excellence targets. Dr. Seng-Dao Yang Keo, Deputy Superintendent, reviewed the collaborative process used to develop the vision and how the district would reach the vision through the targets.

Trustee Mayberry requested additional information on the assessments that would be used to measure the targets in Goal 1 and when those assessments would be administered. Dr. Keo provided additional information on the Smarter Balanced assessments, iReady assessments, and Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Growth assessments.

Trustee Church asked for additional information on the assessments included as measures in other goals, when the Trustees would be updated on the data, and why the ACT and star ratings were not included as measures. Dr. Keo explained the additional assessments and that the intent was to develop a public-facing website where everyone would be able to see the progress students were making and celebrate the successes. Superintendent Enfield remarked the star ratings did not provide a measurement for the district to track. The district could look at using the ACT as a measure.

Mr. Fagbayi continued with the presentation with information on the implementation of the strategic plan. It was important to have a roadmap for the district to follow so the work was chunked into manageable pieces that allowed everyone to keep their focus on what needed to occur. The roadmap included regular reporting and review of data so if adjustments needed to occur, that could be done quickly.

Trustee Church stated he was disappointed the item was not for action because he would like the ability to have the Board provide direction, especially since the state data had recently been released. He was extremely disappointed in the district data because there was a decrease in achievement, but the graduation rate was up, which confused him. He did not believe the district would see any improvement until the drug problems on school campuses and chronic absenteeism were addressed.

Superintendent Enfield mentioned the Board had taken action to approve the strategic plan in June 2023. The goals were the purview of the Board and the targets were the responsibility of staff since it was how the district planned to reach those goals. She

agreed that the test scores and star ratings were not where anyone wanted those to be, and she hoped to see some improvement when the scores for the 2023-24 School Year were released. It was important to note that it would take a couple of years before the district saw sustained improvement.

3.02 PRESENTATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE USES OF THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET, IN THE TOTAL ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$10 MILLION, FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND SUPPORT OF THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN

Dr. Seng-Dao Yang Keo, Deputy Superintendent, and Mark Mathers, Chief Financial Officer, explained the Board had set aside \$10 million for the implementation of the strategic plan when they approved the final amended budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024. The funds would be used for the infrastructure and systems required to execute the strategic plan. The process of developing the strategic plan preliminary budget was reviewed. The intent of the presentation was to receive feedback from the Trustees. The initiatives included were evidence based and would be prioritized based on the unique needs of the district. The individual initiatives and budget estimates for each goal under the strategic plan were presented and discussed. It was noted the budget presented represented monies from the district's General Fund and did not include additional funding streams that could be used, such as weighted funding dollars.

President Smith asked when the kindergarten jump start program would begin because it would be important to ensure families were aware. She wondered if expanding the dual language program was contemplated as part of the planning process. Superintendent Enfield mentioned the intent was to have the kindergarten jump start program begin with the 2024-25 School Year. She was interested in more conversations surrounding expanding the dual language program; however, she was not sure when the foundational systems would be in place so the program could be launched district wide.

Trustee Mayberry wondered if the district was looking for opportunities to increase pay for coaches and club advisors as part of the goals to engage students and encourage participation in extracurricular activities. Superintendent Enfield indicated the district was committed to looking at ways to increase support to coaches and club advisors.

Trustee Mayberry requested additional information on the mental health aspects listed under Goal 3 and if the supports were staff or programming. Dr. Keo remarked that the district was looking at continuing the current programming that had been paid for with federal grant funds which were set to expire. If the district did not step in to fund the programs, they would no longer be available for students and families.

Trustee Mayberry inquired as to the cost of the website and why the estimate was so high. Superintendent Enfield highlighted that the cost for the website included not only

the site for the Washoe County School District, but also the websites for the individual schools. Michele Anderson, Chief Communications and Community Engagement Officer, provided additional information on the school websites and how they could be customized for the individual schools.

President Smith opened the meeting to public comment.

The Board received an email from Colbee Riordan.

It was moved by Trustee Woodley and seconded by Trustee Westlake that **the Board of Trustees provides direction on the preliminary budget related to the implementation and support of the strategic plan in the estimated total amount of \$10 million.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, Colleen Westlake, and Alex Woodley.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

President Smith recessed the meeting for 20 minutes.

3.02 ADOPTION OF WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD RESOLUTION 23-018, A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 15 THROUGH OCTOBER 15 AS HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH IN THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Students from Procter R. Hug High School's Latino Club talked about why it was important for them to reform the Latino Club to create spaces and opportunities for them to be part of a school group that celebrated their Hispanic heritage and culture.

Trustee Woodley read Washoe County School District Board Resolution 23-018, A Resolution recognizing September 15 through October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month in the Washoe County School District, in both English and Spanish.

It was moved by Trustee Rodriguez and seconded by Trustee Mayberry that **the Board of Trustees adopts Washoe County School District Board Resolution 23-018, A Resolution recognizing September 15 through October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month in the Washoe County School District.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, Colleen Westlake, and Alex Woodley.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

4. Reports

4.01 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

This item was not heard.

4.02 BOARD REPORTS

Members of the Board of Trustees reported on their activities, meetings, and events.

4.03 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Susan Enfield reported on her activities including meetings with staff, community leaders, and the media.

5. Closing Items

5.01 PUBLIC COMMENT

Roger Edwards expressed appreciation for the adoption of the new strategic plan because he believed it was focused on student achievement and quality of education. He stressed that it was important for the Board and district leaders to remain focused on the students because that would be the only way the strategic plan would work. He expressed frustration that the students coming out of the district were not prepared for higher education. He was interested in seeing the Board focus on education topics at meetings and not on items such as building maintenance.

Bruce Foster provided a handout to the Board that included information on the president of the American Library Association, who he understood to be a Marxist. He mentioned he was concerned about comments she made at a recent conference where she wanted libraries to become centers of socialist thought. He felt many materials available to students in school libraries were inappropriate for children because they addressed LGBTQ+ topics. He questioned if the books had any redeeming value for students.

The Board received emails from Bob Heinrich and Carole Robertson.

5.02 NEXT MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The next Regular Meeting would take place on Tuesday, October 10, 2023

5.03 ADJOURN MEETING

There being no further business to come before the members of the Board, President Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

Elizabeth Smith, President

Joseph Rodriguez, Clerk

From: Bob Heinrich
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 8:39 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Progressive Discipline Policy

Board Members, Please discuss the implications of "Progressive Discipline". Let us suppose that a student assaults another student in an egregious manner such as with a ruler, a belt or an instrument brought into school in a back pack and causes harm that would be the basis for an arrest. Under this policy could the student then be merely assigned to counseling? In an incident report could this then be categorized as a referral for counseling or as an assault? Could the perpetrator be assigned to another school or is a transfer request only available to the victim?
Thank you for your service.

Robert Heinrich

From: Carole Robertson
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2023 12:48 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reed High School

My granddaughter is now a Junior at Reed. There are serious concerns I have.

1. safety....fights, a bulletin board set on fire, and a girl who threatened with a gun but was in school the VERY NEXT DAY!!!
2. She has never had a locker. Her backpack must weigh at least 20 pounds and she only weighs 93.
3. Crowded lunch room...can't eat lunch inside the cafeteria...halls are crowded, so she eats outside everyday
4. She has gone into classes where the teachers just don't show up so kids are alone in class just talking or texting.
5. overcrowding in general have the kids in the area go to Reed and not the outsiders of the district

Carole Robertson

From: Riordan, Colbee
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 7:04 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: 9.26 Board Meeting Public Comment

September 26, 2023

Item 3.02

Implementation and Support of the WCSD Strategic Plan – \$10 million

Good afternoon Superintendent Enfield, President Smith, and Board of Trustees,

Today, the spending of 10 million dollars for the implementation of the Strategic Plan is being considered for possible action.

Although the Strategic Plan has a focus on our students, it is a lot of money to spend when we don't know how it will look during its' implementation. Is this for more programs? We just spent millions on IReady and need time to implement with fidelity, analyze the data, and allow teachers time to guide instruction, based on the data and implementation, and to meet the needs of all of our students. The implementation of IReady has required a great deal of professional development, a steep learning curve, and ongoing preparation for intervention and enrichment. We do see the value in this new program; however, implementation of additional programs would hinder the effective implementation of IReady.

We do not need more programs in order to execute the Strategic Plan. When teachers, staff and administrators are given more programs to apply and administer, we don't get the results we need. We can't focus on too many initiatives; we need to work with what we have currently.

Aren't we all responsible for the implementation of the Strategic Plan? Working together to improve student learning? To improve the graduation rate? It is ALL of us! I am hoping we are not spending more money on district level personnel. We need people in front of our students providing rigorous instruction and supporting our people in the trenches; that are directly working with students.

Providing the necessary compensation to our teachers and ESP employees was paramount and focused on acknowledging their work and retaining the right people to serve our students in WCSD. Providing compensation to our Administrators is key to the continued work in WCSD. It is important to understand our administrators are key to the effective implementation of the Strategic Plan. Who will implement school level strategic plan goals if our district does not adequately support its' school leaders?

Thank you for considering people over programs and for valuing the work our administrators have done and will do enforcing the strategic plan while diligently delivering the work needed to execute the already adopted programs to our staff, students, and families.

Colbee Riordan
WSPA President

Colbee Riordan
Principal
Marvin Moss Elementary
2200 Primio Way
Sparks, NV 89434



"The attitude with which we approach the situation can determine our success or failure" – Peyton Manning